Hendry, William Belfry (Associate in gynaecology) July 1917 - May 1918

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Hendry, William Belfry
Associate in Gynaecology
July 1917 - May 1918

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

British Salonika Force,

July 20th., 1917.

Sir R. A. Falconer K.C.M.G.
President of The University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Dear Mr.President,-

Thank you very much for your note of congratulations which arrived a couple of days ago. I of course am pleased to have received the decoration but feel that in this matter I am only the representative of the unit, and that the honour which is conferred on me is not for anything that I have done in particular, but in recognition of the work that the unit has done.

There is nothing much to report in connection with the hospital work, except that the daily routine goes monotonously on, and that our average number of patients has somewhat decreased and we are now treating about a thousand a day regularly. Surgery has fallen off but we are still getting a fair proportion of medical cases.

Six of our nurses left three or four days ago; three of them, Misses Wilkinson, Ferguson and Stagg were granted leave to England on compassionate grounds, and three others, Misses Gamblin, Townsend and Smith were invalided by the Standing Medical Board.

We have been hoping that orders for the recall of the unit would have come through before this, and I have written General Foster to have this matter pushed, but so far nothing has been done. It is quite possible though, that by the end of this month or the middle of next, we may be well on our way to England

We have received comparatively little news of events that are taking place in Canada, but the one item which pleased us very much was the passing of the conscription bill. With it in force we shall now be able to maintain our army in France until the end; without conscription there was grave doubt as to the possibility of doing this, and it looked very much as if before the autumn our forces would be no longer considered as a factor.

The weather now is real summer weather such as we have been expecting, and the temperature stays a little over the ninety mark, but the heat has not affected us to any great extent so far, and we are hoping that we will get through the summer without any casualties.

I received a letter the other day from Major Parsons announcing his safe arrival in England, and giving

me a very interesting account of his trip. It is quite possible however, that by this time he may have reached Canada, and will have given you all the latest information concerning the unit.

With best regards to Lady Falconer and yourself, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

W B Hendry

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August 22nd/17

Dear Mr President:-

Just a note to say that at last our move has, in part, taken place. We got seven and a half hours notice to have all our Stores & Equipment, nurses' baggage etc, ready for transportation, this order coming at 10.30 one night, to be ready at 6 the following morning. This entailed considerable labor, as we had sixteen lorry loads to take with us. However, by working through the night we managed to get everything off on schedule time.

The Quartermaster and myself were ordered to stay behind and effect the transfer of the unit, but as accomodation was limited on the ship we could only send two officers, all the nurses and one hundred & eighty-nine other ranks. Consequently we have now twenty-seven officers and twenty men waiting for transportation. I had word this afternoon that those who left had accomplished the first - and worst - part of

the journey safely.

I have now settled up all the affairs of the board of valuation, and will forward to you on our arrival in England, a copy of the proceedings in so far as they affect the University. I've also effected the transfer in all its details and have managed to get through with practically no shortages, which to me is a matter of great relief. I'm now absolutely out of work for the time being and I feel utterly lost having nothing to do. However, it is only a matter of a few days now until arrangements are made for us all to get away.

You have no doubt heard of the fire we had in town the day the mail left. Multiply the Toronto fire by five and you will get some idea of its size. A small neglected blaze starting near the house of Jason, not far from the Church of the Twelve Apostles, within the wall, to windward of the city, a strong Vardar wind, and inadequate fire protection were responsible for the result. No damage, however, of any military importance

was done, and that in these times is the thing of greatest importance.

Where we feel the effects most is that there are now no daily papers for us to read, so that now we are absolutely cut off from the outside world in the matter of news. A mail did come in the day the unit left - the first in two weeks - but unfortunately for us it was taken onboard the ship on which they were, and our share of it accompanied them to England. Consequently I expect that we shall be without any word from home until we catch them up. As our last word was June 26th you will readily understand how eagerly we shall look forward to our arrival in England.

I'm inclined to think that we shall be located at Basingstoke, altho I have had nothing official about it. On our arrival I shall let you know first how we are situated with regard to officers and the necessity for reinforcements.

With best regards to Lady Falconer and yourself, I am.

Yours Sincerely

Col. B. Bendy

September 10th, 1917

Lt.-Colonel W. P. Hendry, D.S.O.,
O.C. No.4 Canadian General Hospital (University of Toronto),
Basingstoke, Kent.

My dear Colonel Hendry:

On my return from Halifax I am delighted to find that Dr. Clarke has had a cable from you stating that you have arrived in England safely. This is a great relief and satisfaction to us all as I am sure it must be to you and your staff. During the past months you must have been very worried simply by the uncertainty, even though the weather has been better this summer perhaps than the last. You have the satisfaction of having seen the job through and of knowing that the Hospital has made a great reputation and that you and your staff have fulfilled a hard task with distinction. I hope that by this time you are comfortably settled in Basingstoke and that in matters of administration the way has been made comparatively easy for you. We shall be glad to get as full particulars as you can send us at your early convenience.

I am sorry that as matters have turned out we should seem to you to have neglected you when you were in Salonica. This was really not our fault as I find on consulting my files that since January I have sent you a letter every month except May, and in May with the closing of the term and absence at Ottawa and elsewhere my time was so occupied that I must have overlooked my usual practice. If I am not mistaken also I wrote you a letter myself in

addition to these. Dr. Clarke tells me that he also endeavoured to keep you posted with what was going on. Evidently the submarine has played havoc with our mails. We are extremely sorry that you and your staff should have received the impression that we were in any way indifferent to the splendid work that was being done by the Hospital in Salonica under most trying circumstances. Please let your staff know that it was not any fault of ours, if we seemed to have been remiss ?

I have just returned from Halifax and this is my first day in the office and there is not much news that I am able to give you. The prospects are, however, that the Faculty of Medicine will be fairly attended during the coming session. Already the fifth year is under way and there are about 94 men and women preparing for graduation.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

September 26th, 1917

Lt.-Colonel [illegible] Terry, U.S.A.,

U.S. Army Base Hospital Central Hospital,

Headquarters, Camp, Wellesley.

My dear Colonel Terry:

[illegible] Association are so much
[illegible] during [illegible] of the [illegible] of Toronto,
[illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] year with no more interest as
[illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]

about 10%, practically all in the first two years.

I shall be glad to hear from you when you get settled down at work. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

What about letting him [illegible] for returning the [illegible]

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No. 4 GENERAL HOSPITAL
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

October 9th. 1917.

To:-

Sir Robert A. Falconer, K.C.M.G.
President,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Dear Mr. President:-

It would almost appear that I am guilty of the short coming with which I have charged Doctor Clark in a recent letter, for I have been negligent in the matter of writing to either yourself or the Dean during the past month. Part of the time, however, we were on our way home and during the remainder of the time I seem to have been so busy that I have had very little time to think of writing letters to Canada.

By this time you will probably have heard all about our trip home, and the manner in which we were despatched. The cable which Doctor Clark received on the 3rd. of September was not sent by me,(for at that time I was still in Salonika), but was forwarded by Captain Trump, who was in charge of the Nursing Sisters and who landed in England on that date. The rest of us left Salonika on the 4th. of September and the whole unit reached England on the 27th. of September. I cabled Doctor Clark on that date, and according to instructions received in a letter from him he gave as his address "TORGLNHOSP" Canada. Six days later I got word from the cable office that Doctor Clark had finally been located at La Dannes, France. How they managed this wonderful feat I don't know; however, I cancelled the cable ~~and handled that~~ with the idea that by that time Lieut.-Colonel C.S.McVicar had probably reached home and would have given all the information concerning the movements of the first part of the unit at least.

On arriving in England I found that we were to report to Basingstoke, and now we are practically all settled here. The name of the hospital has been changed to No. 4 Canadian General Hospital, Basingstoke, Hants, England, and at the present time we are in the midst of checking up the stores and equipment, preparatory to turning over the command to me. As soon as this check is made I shall be officially, as I am actually, the Officer Commanding the unit here. This is a magnificent place, really too large and too complicated for one to give a complete description of it's many branches, but Captain McKenzie who is leaving in a few days for Canada will be able to tell you more graphically than I just what a wonderful place we have. It has been in course of erection for some years and is still far from being complete, as it was intended for a County Asylum. There are many changes which have to be made in order to adapt it to the purposes of a hospital, but these are being made gradually and in time I hope we shall have everything in good running order.

Now regarding the finances. I have suggested to Colonel Primrose that a committee of three, consisting of Colonel Primrose, Major Parsons and Major Duncan Graham be empowered to pass on all necessary expenditures in connection with the hospital. This will be, for the time being, more extensive than any we have incurred during the last nine months. We shall have to supplement some of the surgical appliances, as we have had to sell a lot of our extra equipment at Salonika. For this it will be necessary to have the committee at home place at our disposal a sum sufficient for our immediate needs. At the present time we should have a credit here of about £1,000. As you know, we sold to the Imperial Government material to the amount of about £2,000 to £3,000, and as this matter was referred to the War Office for approval, it may be some little time before these funds are available. I will forward to you shortly a detailed statement of the exact amount which is placed to our credit by the War Office, and in order to replace the material which we have lost, we shall require ready money, for the English dealers are not inclined to run a line of credit just now. I would suggest that an account be opened with the Canadian Bank of Commerce in my name in trust, and that all payments and cheques drawn be approved by the committee. Colonel Primose discussed this matter with me and he has no doubt written to you regarding it. I shall be glad to work under any arrangement which is approved of by the committee at home. A quarterly statement should be sent to you concerning all expenditures. In talking over matters of finance with Colonel Roberts, I find that his account has been closed and that all vouchers have been returned complete to Canada. There are, however, according to him, at least two outstanding accounts which have been unpaid since 1915. I have asked him to have the firms involved send to me a detailed statement of purchases, and that I would deal with these matters when I understood them.

With regard to the personnel. We are still somewhat at a loss to know just where we stand. Some of our original officers while still kindly disposed towards the unit, are now in positions where they think promotion will come more quickly than if they stayed with the unit. Among these are Captains McPhedran, Imrie, Sharpe and Geo. Wilson. I have not insisted on their recall because I fancy that it wouldn't be fair to them. Captain Boyer is with us now, but he too has some chance of promotion elsewhere and if that comes before I can give it to him in this unit, I would not stand in the way of his taking it. It is only just to these men to give them what opportunities there are, (and these are very few) for an ~~differ-ence~~ advance in rank. I have asked Major Parsons about being recalled, but as he is now much better in health and is being made head of the Medical Division, with a corresponding advance in rank, he is anxious to stay with the unit until the spring at least. If, however, there is any liklihood of his breaking down as a result of overstrain I will let you know and arrangements can be made for his recall. I have got back Lieut.-Colonel Malloch as head of Surgery and he has taken hold of the work in fine style.

I asked to have John McCollum transferred to the unit, and will probably get him in due course, as General Foster has agreed to this. Things move slowly in the Army, as you know, and it may take time to get what we want. With regard to Stanton Wishart, it is impossible to have him with us at present as he comes under the R.A.M.C. administration and there is no chance of taking an Imperial Officer into a Canadian Unit in England. As far as Velyien Henderson is concerned, it is impossible to do anything with regard to this while his movements are uncertain. He is still I understand a combatant officer and any move that is made in the matter of getting him with this unit would only be possible after his transfer to the C.A.M.C. At the present time Major Royce is away on leave and he has improved in health. Until I know definitely whether it is advisable for him to return to Canada or not there would be no place for an extra nose and throat man. However, in the event of his returning home I should dearly love to have Jeff Boyd replace him. For our work in medicine and surgery I would be glad to take Cleland, Eldrie and Oille, but these men would not be able to get seniority of rank over men who have been with the unit during the past 2 years and a half. They would, however, be a great source of strength to us and I would welcome them with open arms. I shall probably see Captain McKenzie before he leaves and he can talk this matter over with you on his arrival home.

The unit had a very interesting trip from the East,- to Italy by Sea, travelling only at night, then across Europe to the channel. There were a few hardships, but these did not amount to much and we were all very glad to get back to Blighty again, although we find now a considerable difference in the climate here from that of the East. Everybody is looking much better than before and we are going to try and make a reputation here such as we had in the East.

With kind regards to Lady Falconer and yourself,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

W. B. Hendry

Form C.A. 1

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GREAT NORTH WESTERN TELEGRAPH CABLEGRAM

Z. A. LASH, PRESIDENT — HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT. — GEO. D. PERRY, GENERAL MANAGER

14 MAR 34

Basingstoke Oct 27

Efm President Falconer

University Toronto, Canada

Letter just received extend to Womens Hospital association greetings from number four we shall require surgical dressing compasses and gauze and Christmas stockings for eleven hundred patients. Hendrie 10.30a

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

No.4 Canadian General Hospital,

BASINGSTOKE, Hants,

November 24th, 1917.

Sir Robert A. Falconer, K.C.M.G.
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont. Canada.

Dear Mr. President,

It is some time now since I wrote you concerning the unit affairs; you will probably think that I have been neglecting you, but there have been so few things of interest occurring, and so many little details of work to be done, that I have put off writing until something occurred about which I could consult you.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce notified me the other day that £1,000 had been placed to the credit of No.4 Canadian General Hospital with instructions that all withdrawals were to be signed by myself and countersigned by one of the three Officers, Colonel Primrose, Major Graham and Major Lyons. This is extremely satisfactory to me. I have been anxious to get all of our outstanding accounts settled and to clear up some of the old accounts which have been outstanding since 1915. The placing of this money to our credit has given me considerable relief of mind for I find that I have been more or less worried about this matter up until the present time. Now I see my way clear to get everything settled up and to make a fresh start in the matter of finance.

General Foster paid a visit to the hospital yesterday and I had a very satisfactory interview with him. As you know, no doubt, I asked him sometime ago for leave to Canada, giving as a reason the necessity of a personal interview with you with regard to matters concerning the personnel, and matters of finance. At the time he told me that it was impossible for me to get leave, and yesterday he informed me that for the present I could not get away until things were in running order here and the hospital had been formally opened and established in the list of primary hospitals, receiving convoys direct from France. He suggested, however, that when writing to you I asked you to write direct to him asking that leave of absence be granted to me for two months in order that I might consult you concerning financial arrangements in connection with the University and the hospital, as well as concerning the supplying of reinforcements from the University staff, laying emphasis on the advisability of a personal interview as being much more satisfactory than correspondence. It seems rather a shame that this course of action should be necessary in order to get leave of absence, but in some regards the authorities here are very strict about granting leave and in others quite lax. I am, of course, very anxious to get home and see my family but I am also anxious to do what is best for the hospital and for the service, and I think

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

if I get away from here for a period of two months I shall be able to satisfy my own desires and clean up the matter of personnel of Officers, and bring back with me enough to complete the requirements of the hospital.

If you would be good enough to write the letter suggested on receipt of this, it will be possible, I think, for me to get away from here about the end of January and this will bring me back in the Spring, in time to get ready for the busy period which will likely follow.

The General suggests that I pick out young active men and informed me that it will be impossible for me to bring over any Officers above the rank of Captain. One whom I have in mind at present is Roscoe Graham, now working with Dr.Fred Starr. If Eric Clarke is still at home, and I understand that he went home a short time ago, I shall be glad to take him and we could talk over available men on my arrival.

The work of the hospital is going on as usual; we have an average of 950 patients to treat daily, and are gradually getting the different departments in fairly good running order.

We see Colonel Rudolf and Colonel Primrose every week or so and occasionally have some of our old friends from the University drop in on us.

We have been compelled to loan Captain McTaggart, our X-Ray man, to the Admiralty, and he is now working with Professor McLennan in connection with the Inventions Board. This leaves us without an X-Ray man, but I have applied to have Captain A.E.Walsh, one of our men at here, transferred to us from No.7 Canadian Stationary Hospital, and General Foster has led me to believe that we shall get him; if not, it will probably be necessary for me to get one from home to do this work.

All the Officers and Nurses are well and seem to be quite contented.

With best regards to Lady Falconer and yourself,

Yours sincerely,

Wm Gibson

in transferring men who have high rank in the military service to the Hospital in view of the conditions of their rank.

[illegible] at work, and [illegible] get ready supplies for you. The request [illegible] gifts came too late for them to prepare them and get [illegible], so they want you to indent from the Red Cross [illegible]. There is not the slightest reason [illegible] because since the Hospital Supply [illegible] they have turned in [illegible], our understanding being that [illegible] Cross.

[illegible] having such a well equipped [illegible] that you can do work of a very high [illegible]. I am glad that Dr. Cudlip's [illegible] particularly [illegible]. I suppose that you will not be enlarged to your full [illegible] there may be a slackening of the [illegible] work at the front. Dr. Clarence Starr came home last week, [illegible] account of Basingstoke, and was loud [illegible] possibilities of live work that lies before [illegible].

[illegible] our clinics in the clinical departments are so [illegible] limits it difficult to carry on our teaching, and [illegible] now to come back we could not very well let men like Goldie and Gille go.

The attendance in the Faculty of Medicine is large, particularly

in the first year with 170 students of whom 14 are women. Probably a number of men students of the first year will not be exempted from military service so that the number may be reduced. All the other years, however, are to be put upon a special reserve list from which they may be called at any time as their services are required.

In the other faculties of the University there are not many men of military age who are due to enlist. The work of the engineering [illegible] is making a great rush at present. The various laboratories are [illegible] special lessons for various officials are giving [illegible] military [illegible] with this [illegible] lessons. [illegible] military [illegible] which [illegible] public [illegible] in the country districts. Please [illegible]

Yours,

[illegible],

President.

President.

December 14th, 1917

Lt.-Colonel W. P. Henry, D.S.O.,
O.C. No. 4 Canadian General Hospital,
Basingstoke, Hants,
England.

Dear Colonel Henry:

Your letter has just arrived and I have also just sent a letter to General Foster asking that Roscoe Craven, A. A. Scott and Eric Clarke be appointed to the Hospital. Furthermore I have asked that he grant you leave of absence to return to Toronto as soon as possible and to arrive that you may discuss with us the personnel of the Hospital and advise us personally in such a way, that we may co-operate with you more satisfactorily in the future. I have urged this in strong terms. I hope therefore that we shall see you home by the end of January.

Trusting you get our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

December 21st., 1917

Lt.-Colonel J. G. Adami, C.B.E.,

O.C. No. 3 Canadian General Hospital (University of Toronto)

Cambridge, Eng.

My dear Colonel Adami:

I am forwarding to you a letter which I have just received. The case seems to me to be a very pitiful one and if you are able to do anything for Mrs. Kennedy I should think it would be approved of by the higher authorities. If you are able to write to the military people for leave for Corporal Kennedy, I will be so glad.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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Form C.A. 1

GREAT NORTH WESTERN TELEGRAPH AND CABLE CABLEGRAM

Z. A. LASH, *President* **HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT.** GEO. D. PERRY, *General Manager*

R97NYSM JAN-2-1918

BASINGSTOKE 9

PRESIDENT FALCONER

UNIVERSITY TORONTO

CANNOT PLACEROWNTREE WRITING

HENDRY

910PM

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

No.4 Canadian General Hospital,

BASINGSTOKE, Hants,

January 12th. 1918.

Sir Robert A. Falconer, K.C.M.G.
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario, CANADA.

Dear Mr.President,

In the matter of Dr.Rowntree of whom you wrote. I wired you that we could not place him with us; the reason being that it is impossible to place a man of his type temporarily in a hospital such as ours so that the arrangements will work out satisfactorily to the service and to the authorities here. The situation with us is not the same as it is at Orpington, where Doctors Futcher and McRae have been placed so that they alternate in their work every six months and preserve the continuity of service, which is not detrimental to the work of their department, owing to the fact that their methods and training are practically the same. With Doctor Rowntree here it would be a different matter. Then too, I am of opinion that if Parsons at any time wishes to return to Canada, it would be much better to have him replaced by a University of Toronto man, rather than by an outsider. This is a University of Toronto unit and I am anxious that it should remain such so far as it is possible. To place a private man at the head of the department of medicine here would be contrary to the original policy and plan of the University.

After sending my cable I had a talk with General Foster concerning the matter and he had informed me that he had written General Fotheringham to say that he could not take Doctor Rowntree under the conditions on which the latter wished to enter the service.

Two other letters from you have just arrived and I am very glad that you have written the D.M.S. asking that Graham, Scott and Clark be appointed to the hospital. I had already spoken to him about these men and had wired the Dean to make arrangements with General Fotheringham to have them sent over at once. I am pleased, too, to know that you have written the General about my leave and trust that before long it will be forthcoming.

With regard to your letter concerning Corporal Kennedy. This case is a very pitiful one, but it is a hard one to deal with from this end. Leave to Canada is only given in exceptional cases and on compassionate grounds, the word "compassionate" implying financial distress or trouble of some kind and including more than sentimental grounds. The letter which you enclosed is that of a heart-broken woman who wants her boy, but it is not one on which the authorities

at Headquarters would grant leave. I can put it forward as I have done others of the same kind, but I am confident that in this case, as in the other cases, no leave will be granted. It would be necessary for her to arrange for this from Canada where the authorities are not so hard hearted.

In connection with our present hospital staff. We have lost, temporarily at least, the services of Major Gilbert Royce who has been attached to Bromley Convalescent Hospital to take temporary command of that institution. This has been done for thepurpose of giving Royce a promotion which he has well deserved, but which, owing to the definite establishment of our hospital which allows only two Lieut.-Colonels, could not have been effected here. This leaves a vacancy of course in our Nose and Throat department. Major Lowry is carrying on this work in connection ~~with~~ with his own for the present, but I would be glad if you would have Doctor Fred O'Connor sent over to carry on the work of the department here. I have already spoken to General Foster about it and if arrangements are made in Canada with General Fotheringham to send him along, we shall be able to take him on the strength of the unit.

I am glad to say that Parsons' promotion has come through and that he is now a Lieut.-Colonel in charge of the medical division, while I too have received a step up in rank.

Since last writing you General Jones has been down on a tour of inspection, and spent six days with us, during which time he went thoroughly into the work of every department of the hospital and talked individually with every patient.. He told me that he was well pleased with the administration generally and that from no patient had he received a single word of complaint, all of which was highly satisfactory to me.

Our Xmas and New Year's went off very pleasantly. Through the generosity of the Red Cross we were able to give the patients an extra good dinner on Christmas Day, and to supply each one with a Xmas gift. The Women's Auxillary of the C.A.M.C. at home enabled ~~us~~ us to give the men of the unit an extra treat for Xmas and the Nurses have worked hard to make this season as nearly representative of what it should be at home as is possible in war time. Altogether we felt quite satisfied that everybody had been given a good time. New Year's with us was rather quiet but still we managed to give the patients something extra in the way of food and everyone was quite happy.

General Foster tells me that in a very short time now we shall have an official opening and become what is called a "Convoy Hospital". Up to the present time

we have been in part a Convalescent hospital and in part a special active treatment hospital, which is not altogether satisfactory, but within a couple of weeks we shall no doubt settle down into the routine work which will remain fixed for the rest of the war.

On the whole the Nurses have been well, although a good many of them have been troubled with colds. Miss Agnes Campbell had the misfortune to slip on a little ice the other morning and fractured her fibula. She is, however, doing nicely and it will not be long before she is around again. The Officers all keep well and are doing most excellent work.

With best regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Colonel.

January 18th, 1918

Colonel W. P. Henry, D.S.O.,
O.C. No.3 Canadian General Hospital,
Basingstoke, Hants, England.

Dear Colonel Henry:

This is just a line to congratulate you on your promotion. We were all very much pleased to hear of it the other day. We are also hoping to see you before long. Indeed it may be that this letter will cross you on your way out. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

392 Form

GREAT NORTH WESTERN TELEGRAPH AND CABLE
CABLEGRAM

Z. A. LASH, *President* **HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT.** GEO. D. PERRY, *General Mar*

2 N SC 15

Basingstoke Feb 22

President Falconer

University Toronto.

Nursing Sister Lena Davis died this morning from blackwater fever

Hendry.

Mrs Davis Dawn
Brantford

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

No.4 Canadian General Hospital,

BASINGSTOKE, Hants,

February 22nd.1915.

Sir Robert A. Falconer K.C.M.G.
President, The University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Mr.President,-

I very much regret to have to report the death this morning of one of our Nurses, Miss Lena Davis, whom you probably met when she was on leave to Canada during the Fall. She was one of the unfortunate nurses to contract Malaria in the East and since her first attack has had fourteen recurrences. The last one being in August last year. On her return from Canada in December she seemed very well and was apparently in the best of health until Saturday, February 13th., when she returned from five days' leave during which time she had been doing considerable travelling and was rather tired on her return. On Saturday night she reported not feeling well and suspected the return of her Malaria. We at once had her admitted to hospital but found that as well as Malaria she had a marked haemoglobinuria and was suffering from Blackwater Fever as a result of Malaria. She failed very rapidly and in spite of everything that could be done, passed away this morning. We gave the poor girl every possible attention. Colonel Parsons had charge of the case and with him Major Graham and Captain Lewis worked most faithfully. Colonel Rudolph was also in consultation. We had two special nurses for her by day and two by night but with all our efforts nothing seemed to effect any improvement. We were fortunately able to trace one of her relatives here, a cousin, Captain Grobb stationed at Witley, whom we sent for and have still with us. We have arranged for her burial with full military honours in the beautiful little cemetery of Sherbourne St.John. I cabled you this morning of the death and have taken steps to notify her relatives at home.

Thank you very much for your letter of congratulations concerning my promotion which reached me this morning. There seems to be some little delay with regard to my leave; the reason given being that it is contrary to the policy of the headquarters to grant leave on the request of an individual. The H.Q. suggested to the D.M.S. General Foster that a request for this leave should come through the Militia Department at Ottawa and accordingly General Foster sent you a cable which you must have received a couple of weeks ago and on which I presume you have already acted.

Our hospital is not yet actually opened as a convalescent hospital. The reason for the delay being that the Convalescent Hospital at Dexhill which will relieve us of our convalescents, will not be ready until the 1st March, after which time our convoys will begin to arrive direct from France. Up to the present time

our patients have been 50% convalescents and 50% specially referred cases for active treatment.

Colonel Primrose who has probably reached Canada before this time will be able to give you a definite account of such work as we have been doing up to the present time.

I received a cable a couple of days ago from Dr.Clark, suggesting Major Henderson as Adjutant and informing me that Graham, Scott and Eric Clark were en route. Regarding Henderson. I do not know what his movements will be since the change of policy with regard to the 5th Division. At any rate as yet he has not transferred to the C.A.M.C.

Roscoe Graham has already arrived in England and I have written Colonel Chisholm concerning the three doctors for this unit. They will be posted to No 4 as soon as they have undergone a short preliminary training at the C.A.M.C. Depot.

All the Officers and Nurses are in fairly good health just at present but feeling very badly over the death of Miss Davis.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Colonel.

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

[illegible] Canadian General Hospital,
[illegible] BASINGSTOKE, Hants,
[illegible],

May 19th. 191 .

[illegible], Sir R. A. Falconer, [illegible].
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont., Canada.

My dear President,-

It is now very nearly three weeks since I have been back into harness and find that everything in the hospital has been running very satisfactorily during my absence.

About April 1st., we became a "primary" hospital in charge that time have been receiving patients direct from France. Fortunately there have not been a great many Canadian casualties up to the present time, but we are getting a swift in number each day which keeps the hospital pretty well up to its capacity. An effort is being made now to extend the existing buildings which should before long, result in our expanding by 700 beds. There are certain difficulties in the way of carrying out this work with the degree of rapidity which one would like to see, but about the middle of August, I think, that most of the work will be done. In the meantime our surgeons keep tolerably busy and are - surprisingly quite satisfied with conditions as they are.

[illegible] succeeded in getting Captains Clarke, Scott and Connor from the Canadian Base Hospitals in France. These boys are now of the best men in the world. Forces to which they belong retained [illegible] Toronto for the present, but I am assured that he will be returned to us as soon as another man is available to take his place on the Medical Board. I have also arranged with the C.A.M.C. to have Staunton Wishart posted to us as soon as he is ready to be taken on the strength of the C.A.M.C. You will probably remember that he has been for the last three years with the R.A.M.C. in the East, and is [illegible] to transfer to the C.A.M.C. on the expiration of his contract. We expect him in London about May 26th., and I hope to see him then and arrange with him the proper method of procedure to ensure his reaching us ultimately.

Owing in view the approaching expansion I have made arrangements for a couple of officers to be sent out from Canada, and yesterday cabled Dr. Clarke to arrange for Captain W.C. Dixon and Captain Campbell to be sent overseas. These are two of the men whom we talked about while I was home. I am a little worried about Goldie. He has not yet turned up and I am at a loss to account for the delay in connection with his commission. I thought I had arranged it all with Thursby and I had a talk with General Fotheringham on the morning I left Toronto, but something appears to have happened which has interfered with his being sent as early as I planned. Possibly by the time you receive this letter you will have started on his way. If not, I would be glad if you could stir them up at home and get him over.

Turner is anxious to get back and [illegible]

is anxious to have his services as soon as possible. Accordingly I have written to the D.M.S. to the effect that he is available to return to Canada, and he should be going home before long.

By this time you will probably have seen Armour who left last week along with Trump, one of our Quartermasters. Both of these Officers having been recalled for duty in Canada. I was very sorry to see these men go, because they have been most decidedly of service to the unit from the very beginning. Armour has done exceptionally good work in connection with our Nervous cases and has beena real comfort throughout. Trump too, has done most excellent work in his department and it has been no easy task to look after the supplies of a hospital of this size. He has received great praise from Headquarters for the work that he has done.

Lewis, who has done exceedingly good work has taken over Armour's work, and I have a man named Murphy who seems to be a very capable chap, taking over Trump's work.

I received yesterday a rather annoying letter from the A.D.M.S. calling attention to the fact that we had a largex amount of equipment in excess of the standard for a General Hospital, and suggesting one of two things; either that the C.A.M.C. take over our surplus and withdraw the same, or the C.A.M.C. withdraw their technical equipment and the University undertake to replace the same and only draw from Medical Stores, the expendible material required for the running of the hospital. In reply to this I have written to refuse both suggestions and have stated that our ~~friends~~ funds were raised by the friends of the University of Toronto throughout Canada, for the purpose not of equipping a hospital, but of supplementing the hospital equipment in order that better work may be done for the service than could be accomplished by carrying on with the standard equipment laid down for an ordinary general hospital. I also stated, that considering all the interests involved, it would be unwise and ill-timed and not for the good of the service, to withdraw any of our surplus. I rather think that nothing further will be done in this matter, but it is rather annoying to have a suggestion of this kind made in view of the reputation for good work which the hospital has made as a result of the support they have received from our friends at home. It will not be necessary for you to take any action in this matter at present, but I shall keep you informed of any future developements.

I did not have a very plesant trip across the Atlantic this time. I spent about a week in my stateroom as I have found that I am not a very good sailor, but I feel the benefits of the trip home and the satisfaction of being with Mrs Hendry and the kiddies if it was only for a short time.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

The weather now is delightful. Our gardening is going on very well indeed. We have about seventeen acres under cultivation and it looks as if we are going to have a prosperous season in the agricultural line, and a busy season in the professional line.

The Nurses are all well and both they and the Officers are looking forward to the summer with a great deal of enthusiasm.

With best regards to Lady Falconer and yourself,

Yours sincerely,

Colonel.

Form C.A. 1

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GREAT NORTH WESTERN TELEGRAPH CABLEGRAM

Z. A. LASH, *President* — **HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT.** — GEO. D. PERRY, *General Manager*

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EFM PRESIDENT FALCONER

UNIVERSITY TORONTO

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ROBINSON LEFT US MAY EIGHTEENTH FOR RETURN

HENDRY

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Form C.A. 1

305

GREAT NORTH WESTERN CABLEGRAM

Z. A. LASH, *President* — **HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT.** — GEO. D. PERRY, *General Manager*

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BASINGSTOKE JULY 1 ST 1918

PRESIDENT FALCONER

UNIVERSITY TORONTO

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HENDRY

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